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St. Kitts: Independence in 1977 At Earliest

British officials in London have made clear to visiting representatives from St. Kitts that the UK will not grant the island independence until at least 1977. The British representatives said that "the time was not yet ripe" and that Premier Bradshaw's hope for independence by September was "totally unrealistic."

 considerable time was devoted in the talks to the "thorny issue" of Nevis. Although the British made it clear that they would not assist Nevisian separatists in any way, they urged the government of St. Kitts to invite representatives of the Nevis Reformation Party to take part in future talks.

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St. Kitts noted the position of the British government that Anguilla had been effectively separated from St. Kitts/Nevis, but refused to acknowledge the validity of the British action. Recent elections in Anguilla in which Anguillan separatist Ronald Webster and his followers won six of seven seats failed to draw further verbal attacks by Bradshaw, who has assailed the British decision to grant Anguilla a constitution. Bradshaw's silence may indicate that he has finally realized that he can do nothing about Anguilla's secession from St. Kitts/Nevis.



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Jean-Claude Duvalier - The Quinquennium

In the five years since Jean-Claude Duvalier became President for Life of Haiti, he has emerged as the country's principal decision maker. His authority, self-assurance, and determination have grown, and at 24 he has become President in fact as well as name. He has had some limited success in ameliorating economic and social stagnation and has gradually dismantled much of the machinery of political repression that he inherited from his father, the late President (1957-71) Francois Duvalier.

During his early months in office, Jean-Claude played a largely ceremonial role. He exercised no decisive influence on government policy and made little progress in learning about the government. Cautiously, however, he began to assert himself and move out of the shadow of his mother, Simone Ovide Duvalier, and of his father's reactionary, older advisers. He has replaced some of them with younger, more able men and he has dispelled the doubts of many political observers that he would ever develop into a serious, authoritative leader.

President Duvalier's attempts to reform Haitian institutions have been hampered by the inefficient bureaucratic apparatus and by opposition from still powerful holdovers from his father's regime. He has a well-developed sense of the politically possible, however, and is well aware of the risks of moving too quickly in Haiti's fragile political situation. At the same time, a major obstacle to greater government efficiency is the President's reluctance to trust people and his insistence on having a hand in even minor decisions. He also tends to take the advice of the last person to whom he has spoken and to make decisions without sufficient background information.

A quiet, reserved young man, Duvalier has emerged from his earlier isolation at the Palace to make increasingly frequent, unannounced forays into the

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